

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 16 AUG 2005

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(15)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

| | | |
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| To: BAHNG Hae Cheol KBK & ASSOCIATES 15th Floor Yo Sam Building, 648-23, Yeoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu Seoul 135-080 Republic of Korea | | Date of mailing (day/month/year) 8 August 2005 (08.08.2005) |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference AZ05-181WOWW | | FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below |
| International application No. PCT/KR 2005/001682 | International filing date (day/month/year) 7 June 2005 (07.06.2005) | Priority Date (day/month/year) 7 June 2004 (07.06.2004) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06F 39/12, D06F 37/26 | | |
| Applicant LG ELECTRONICS INC. | | |

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cont. No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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|--|---|
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/ AT Austrian Patent Office Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna Facsimile No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 535 | Authorized officer WININGER B. Telephone No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 460 |
|--|---|

Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims 6, 11-13, 18-20 | YES |
| | Claims 1-5, 7-10, 14-17 | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims 11, 12, 18, 19 | YES |
| | Claims 1-10, 13-17, 20 | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-20 | YES |
| | Claims ---- | NO |

2. Citations and explanations:

Document D1 (GB 2 243 770 A) relates to a top cover for washing machine comprising a first member 12 having on the outside thereof a rebate 16 in which channel-shaped seats 17 are provided and extend vertically and terminate below in a re-entrant 18 and a second edge member 13 on the inside of which are provided resilient tongues 20 with a snap catch 21 designed to engage the said channel-shaped seats 17. As can be seen in the figures subject-matters of claims 1-4, 7, 8-10, 14-7 are embodied of document D1. Therefore subject matters of claims 1-4, 7, 8-10, 14-17 are not new and do not involve an inventive step.

As shown in Fig. 3 of document D2 (WO 2004/025013 A1) a top panel 50 of a washing machine is put down to the other panels 20, 30, and 40 so that flange 51 is brought into contact with the sloped surface 111. During the fastening of the top panel 50 and the locking member 100, once the projection member 300 meets with the recess 52, the projection member 300 is received at the recess 52 so as not to break away from the recess 52. Hence, subject-matters of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 14 are embodied in document D2.

Document D3 (EP 0 875 196 A1) comprises a covering or table top for a washing machine which has a work plate located in a surrounding frame 1. The frame comprises an outer frame 1 and an inner frame. The outer frame 1 is equipped with hooks 3, which extends inwards and engage in the openings of a vertical side of the inner frame. The hook jaw is open downwards and grips an edge located in the lower edge section of the vertical inner frame side. Locking projections 4 are provided in the bottom section of the vertical side 15 of the outer frame 1 and grip below the lower edge of the vertical side of the inner frame. Therefore the subject-matters of claims 1-3 are shown by document D3.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/KR 2005/001682

Document D4 (GB 646 345 A) embodies a vitreous enamel table top b5 for a washing machine with a downturned flange around each edge by which it is secured to the frame B2. By reason that documents D1 and D4 include top covers of washing machines the skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal design option to combine the features of documents D1 and D4 to solve the problem posed. Hence, the subject-matters of claims 6, 13, 20 do not involve an inventive step.

In summary it can be ascertained that the subject matters of claims 1-5, 7-10, 14-17 are not new and that subject-matters of claims 6, 11-13, 18-20 are new. Subject-matters of claims 11, 12, 18, 19 involve an inventive step. Subject-matters of claims 1-10, 13-17, 20 do not involve an inventive step.

Industrial applicability is given.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference AZ05-181WOWW | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See item 4 below |
| International application No. PCT/KR2005/001682 | International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07 June 2005 (07.06.2005) | Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07 June 2004 (07.06.2004) |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 | | |
| Applicant LG ELECTRONICS INC. | | |

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|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a). 2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet. In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> 4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| <p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70</p> | <p>Date of issuance of this report 08 December 2006 (08.12.2006)</p> <p>Authorized officer Philippe Becamel</p> <p>e-mail: pt12@wipo.int</p> |
|--|--|

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(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

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| Name and mailing address of the ISA/ AT Austrian Patent Office Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna Facsimile No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 535 | Authorized officer WININGER B. Telephone No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 460 |
|---|---|

Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims 6, 11-13, 18-20 | YES |
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| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-20 | YES |
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